

# Appendix C: Acronyms & Glossary of Terms

## Acronyms

---

**AADT** – Average Annual Daily Traffic

**AASHTO** – American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

**ADA** - Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

**AVL** – Automatic Vehicle Location

**BFA** – Bicycle Federation of America

**BNSF** – Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad

**BTS** – Bureau of Transportation Statistics (Under USDOT, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov))

**CMAQ** – Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (Federal Funding category)

**CTD** – Coordinated Transit District (Districts used in Public Transit)

**CMS** – Congestion Management System

**CTP** – Comprehensive Transportation Program

**DOT** – Department of Transportation

**EIS** – Environmental Impact Statement

**EMS** – Emergency Medical Services

**EPA** – Environmental Protection Agency

**FAA** – Federal Aviation Administration

**FHWA** – Federal Highway Administration

**FRA** – Federal Railroad Administration

**FTA** – Federal Transit Administration

**FY** – Fiscal Year

**GIS** – Geographic Information System

**GPS** – Global Positioning System

**HOV** - High Occupancy Vehicle

**ISTEA** – Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991

**ITS** – Intelligent Transportation Systems

**KDOT** – Kansas Department of Transportation

**KHP** – Kansas Highway Patrol

**KTA** – Kansas Turnpike Authority  
**LRTP** – Long-Range Transportation Plan  
**MIS** – Major Investment Study  
**MPO** – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
**MUTCD** – Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices  
**NAFTA** – North American Free Trade Agreement  
**NEPA** – National Environmental Policy Act  
**NHS** – National Highway System  
**NHTSA** – National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
**SOV** – Single Occupancy Vehicle  
**STIP** – Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan  
**STP** – Surface Transportation Program (Federal funding category)  
**TAZ** – Traffic Analysis Zone  
**TDM** – Travel Demand Management  
**TE** – Transportation Enhancement  
**TEA-21** – Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Federal legislation)  
**TIP** – Transportation Improvement Program  
**TMA** – Transportation Management Area  
**UPWP** – Unified Planning Work Program  
**USDOT** – United States Department of Transportation  
**V/C** – Volume to Capacity Ratio  
**WAMPO** – Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

## Glossary of Terms

---

**Advanced Traffic Management Systems (ATMS)** – ATMS technologies apply surveillance and control strategies to improve traffic flow on roadways.

**Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)** – Federal law prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities. The legislation requires public entities and public accommodations to provide accessible accommodations for people with disabilities.

**AM Peak Period** – The time period in the morning when the greatest demand for transportation occurs. In the Wichita Area, the AM Peak Period is from approximately 7:00 AM to approximately 9:00 AM.

**Arterial Road** – A major roadway within a city. Generally, arterial roads are large, high capacity roads providing connectivity between collector roads and limited access freeway roads.

**Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)** – BRT is a high speed bus system operated within an exclusive right-of-way. BRT incorporates exclusive transitways, modern stations, on-board fare collection, high-tech vehicles and frequent service. BRT systems can be built incrementally and designed for vehicles – rather than people – transfer from local bus routes to the high speed lines.

**Bus** – A transit mode comprised of passenger vehicles with rubber tires operating on selected routes and schedules over roadways. Vehicles are powered by diesel, gasoline, battery, electricity or alternative fuel engines contained within the vehicle.

**Bus Routes** – Predetermined paths on streets or guideways with designated stops or stations.

**Busway** – Exclusive two-lane roadway reserved for buses and emergency vehicles.

**Collector Road** – A roadway linking local road traffic to an arterial roadway, are classified as collector roadways.

**Commuter Rail** – A transit mode that is an electric or diesel propelled railway for urban passenger train service consisting of local, short distance travel typically operating between a central city and adjacent suburbs.

**Congestion** – A condition that occurs when user demand on a transportation system (i.e., roadway or transit route) exceeds the capacity of the system during any period of the day, but usually occurs during the peak commuter periods of 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

**Corridor** – A long, generally slender land area with an existing or planned transportation facility at the center. The general purpose of a corridor is to define a study area for future transportation planning improvements.

**Crosswalk** – Portion of a roadway where pedestrians are permitted to cross the roadway. A crosswalk can be marked or unmarked.

**Express Buses** – Bus routes where passengers are picked up in outlying suburban areas and then travel non-stop to a single high density area such as downtown Wichita.

**Expressway** – Roadways not on the Interstate Highway System with limited access points designed to move high volumes of traffic at high speeds. Access to Expressways is provided at major street intersections and occasionally at an interchange. Highway K-254 between Wichita and El Dorado is an example of a rural expressway.

**Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** – A Federal agency that approves and oversees highway projects using federal funds.

**Federal Transit Administration (FTA)** – A federal agency that approves and oversees transit projects using federal funds.

**Fixed Guideway** – A mass transportation facility using and occupying a separate right-of-way or rail for the exclusive use of mass transportation vehicles or other high occupancy vehicles.

**Grade Separated Crossings** – Facilities such as overpasses, underpasses, skywalks or tunnels that allow pedestrians and/or motor vehicles to cross a street at different levels.

**Growth Management** – A general term used regarding regulation of new land use and development. Growth management is often associated with the attempt to control urban sprawl.

**Headway** – The time interval between vehicles moving in the same direction on a particular route.

**High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV)** – Passenger vehicles or mass transit buses carrying one or more passengers (excluding the driver).

**HOV Lanes** – Generally, a term for carpool lanes. HOV lanes include an exclusive or controlled access right-of-way that is restricted to high occupancy vehicles (buses and/or passenger cars/vans carrying one or more passengers) for a portion or all of the day.

**Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA)** – Federal legislation authorizing highway, highway safety, transit, and other surface transportation programs from 1991 through 1997. ISTEA provided new funding opportunities for sidewalks, shared-use paths and recreational trails. ISTEA was superseded by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

**Intermodalism** – The use of multiple types of transportation to reach one destination. Intermodalism includes combining the use of more than one mode of transportation on a given trip. The modes may include buses, trains, automobiles, bicycles and pedestrian transport methods.

**Interstate Highways** – Limited access roadways designed for high speed travel over long distances. Interstate highways generally connect large metropolitan

areas or serve as a “by-pass” around a large metropolitan area (i.e., I-35 (KTA), I-135 and I-235).

**Involvement** – We need your involvement during public meetings and Citizens Advisory Committee meetings. Get involved and make a difference!!

**Island** – A pedestrian refuge within the right-of-way and traffic lanes of a highway or street. An island may also be used as an area for light rail or bus rapid transit stations.

**Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)** – The application of advanced technologies to improve the safety and efficiency of transportation systems.

**Level of Service (LOS)** – A qualitative measure that characterizes operational conditions within a traffic stream and their perception by motorists and passengers. The descriptions of LOS categories characterize traffic flow conditions in terms of such factors as speed, travel time, freedom to maneuver, traffic interruptions, comfort and convenience. The LOS categories range from "A", which is full free flow traffic conditions, to "F" which is complete gridlock. LOS is C signifies full but constant traffic flow with only occasional interruptions.

**Light Rail** – A transit mode typified by an electric railway with medium volume traffic capacity compared to heavy rail. Light rail is characterized by passenger rail cars operating individually (or in short, usually 2 car trains) on fixed rails in a shared or exclusive right-of-way.

**Limited Access** – Roadways with access limited to specific points with arterial or other limited access roadways. Access rights along the roadway right-of-way have been purchased by the government entity responsible for the roadway thus eliminating individual property access to the roadway. Limited access roadways are designed to facilitate the movement of high traffic volumes at high speeds over great distances.

**Local Road** – A road that serves individual residences or businesses and distributes traffic to collector and arterial roadways.

**Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)** – A transportation plan developed by the Wichita Area MPO in partnership with Wichita Transit and the KDOT to encapsulate at least 20 years of transportation planning and policy.

**Median** – An island in the center of the roadway that provides pedestrian refuge and reduces the distance between safety points. A median may also be used as an area for light rail or bus rapid transit stations.

**Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)** – The areawide agency charged with the conduct of the urban transportation planning process. In this region the MPO is the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO). Together with the KDOT, WAMPO carries out the planning and programming activities necessary for Federal capital funding assistance. The WAMPO is designated by agreement among the various units of local government and the Governor.

**Midblock Crossing** – A pedestrian crossing point positioned in the center of a block rather than at an intersection.

**Mode** – Refers to a means of transportation (auto, bus, rail, pedestrian, bicycle, etc.).

**National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)** – An act passed by Congress to regulate the negative effects construction and transportation projects may impose on the natural environment.

**Pedestrian** – A person who travels on foot or who uses assistive devices, such as a wheelchair, for mobility.

**PM Peak Period** – The time period in the afternoon or evening when the greatest demand for transportation occurs. In the Wichita Area, the PM Peak Period is from approximately 4:00 PM to approximately 6:00 PM.

**Public Transportation** – As defined in the Federal Transit Act, transportation by bus, rail, or other conveyance, either publicly or privately owned, providing to the public general or special service (but not including school buses, charter or sightseeing service) on a regular and continuing basis. Public transportation is also synonymous with the terms mass transportation and transit.

**Right-of-Way** – Real property rights (whether by fee simple ownership, by easement or by other agreement) acquired across land for a purpose (i.e., transit facilities, roadways, sidewalks and utilities).

**Roadway Functional Classification** – A system of classifying roadways based on their function (the type of traffic typically handled by the roadway) rather than their capacity or location. Roadways are classified as Freeway, Major Arterial, Minor Arterial, Collector and Local from the highest, most intensive function to the lowest.

**Sidewalk** – The portion of a roadway intended for pedestrians.

**Smart Bus** – Transit vehicle equipped with ITS applications.

**Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990** – The section of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 that prohibits state and local governments from discriminating against people with disabilities in programs, services and activities.

**Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990** – The section of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 that prohibits places of public accommodation and commercial facilities from discriminating on the basis of disability.

**Transportation Enhancement** – Projects that include providing bicycle and pedestrian facilities; converting abandoned railroad rights-of-way into trails; preserving historic transportation sites; acquiring scenic easements; mitigating the negative impacts of a project on a community by providing additional benefits; and other projects.

**Transportation Equity Act of the 21 st Century (TEA-21)** – Federal legislation authorizing highway, highway safety, transit, and other surface transportation programs from 1998 through 2003. TEA-21 provides funding opportunities for pedestrian, bicycle, and public transportation facilities and emphasizes intermodalism, multimodalism and community participation in transportation planning initiated by ISTEA.

**Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** – A five-year list of authorized local transportation projects approved each year by the Wichita Area MPO. The TIP includes a prioritized list of all projects that will be constructed with Federal and State transportation funding.

**Transit Oriented Development (TOD)** – A term used for urban development that encompasses a direct and planned access to transit facilities.

**Urbanized Area** – An area defined by the U.S. Census Bureau that includes one or more incorporated cities, villages and towns (central place) and the adjacent densely settled surrounding territory (urban fringe) that together have a minimum population of 50,000 persons.

**Vehicle Hours (Miles)** – The hours (miles) a vehicle travels, from the time it pulls out from its garage to go into revenue service to the time it returns to the garage from revenue service. For conventional scheduled services, vehicle hours include revenue time, layover time and deadhead time.

**Vision** – A creative plan for the future focusing on goals established by a group. In transportation, a vision looks beyond immediate transportation solutions (i.e., new roadways) and plans the framework and methods for attaining future transportation goals.

**V/C Ratio** – Used as a principal measure of congestion. The “V” represents the volume or the number of vehicles that are using the roadway at any particular period. The “C” represents the capacity of a roadway at its adopted LOS. If the volume exceeds the capacity of the roadway (volume divided by capacity exceeds 1.00), congestion exists.

**Zoning** – The traditional method of allocating land uses to land. Zoning is enacted and enforced by local governments (city or county).